Inclusion of more commodities under the list of essential commodities

1225. SHRI PENUMALLI MADHU: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to include more commodities under the list of essential commodities to invoke 1955 Essential Commodities Act;

(b) whether there is any proposal to include pulses, midha, wheat powder, vanaspathi in the list of essential commodities; and

(c) if so, the detils thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) No. Sir. there is no proposal for inclusion of any more commodities in the list of essential commodities under Essential Commodities Act, 1955.

(b) and (c) The item "Foodstuffs, including edible oilseeds and oils" which is an essential commodity at present, includes all the food items including pulses, gur, wheat products (namely maida, rava, suji, atta, resultant atta and bran), vanaspathi etc. Therefore, there is no need to include these commodities separately in the list of essential commodities under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955.

Prices of essential commodities

1226. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that prices of essential commodities have shot up after the hike in the rates of petrol, diesel and CNG;

(b) whether Government have gone into the impact of hike in petroleum prices on the cost of essential commodities and the actual increase in market prices of these commodities;

(c) whether the market prices have increased much higher than the cost prices and whether Government have invoked the EC Act or the